

MINUTES

City of San Diego Park and Recreation Board BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE

August 3, 2006

Meeting held at:

Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing address is:

Balboa Park Administration
2125 Park Boulevard MS39
San Diego, CA 92001-4792

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Laurie Burgett
Darlene Davies
Vicki Granowitz
Sungill Kim
Nancy Rodriguez
Paul Rucci
Michael Singleton
Michael Stepner

Members Absent

Jeffrey Kirsch (Ex)
Dan Mazzella (Ex)
Donald Steele (Ex)
Joyce Summer (Ex)

Staff Present

Mauro Garcia
Kathleen Hasenauer

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Davies called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 6, 2006 Minutes will be approved at the September 7, 2006 meeting.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCES

None

COMMUNICATIONS

John Winkleman, a park patron, who attends many events, has written a letter to Council District 3 regarding designated smoking areas in Balboa Park. He would like to see smoking areas in the leaseholds, close to museums, and where people gather. Smoking areas should also be designated for special event venues.

Robert Sokolowski, a park employee, believes in personal freedoms. Smoking designated areas should be located near the Spreckels Organ Pavilion, the Old Globe, wedding sites, and the Administration Building.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Darlene Davies reported that she has spent more than thirty-five hours

discussing parking issues in the past week. She reported that staff has re-striped the Plaza de Panama, moved the tram stop, and re-configured the valet drop-off/pick-up area. The valet parking program will continue to be evaluated.

Darlene conveyed to the Mayor that the Balboa Park Committee was beginning the conversation on the smoking ban and recommendations for exemptions. He expressed his interest.

STAFF REPORT

Jeffery Tom, City Council District 3 Representative, thanked the committee for providing the forum for public testimony on the No Smoking Ordinance.

Mauro Garcia briefly discussed the Park and Recreation Department smoking ban implementation plan, the letter sent to Advisory Committees or Recreation Councils soliciting their input, and the new no smoking signs. Two thousand signs have been ordered. The smoking ban ordinance is effective on August 17, 2006. The Mayor has the discretion to designate smoking permitted areas.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

101. None

Adoption

201. Discussion of potential areas in Balboa Park to be classified as designated smoking areas.

Vicki Granowitz provided a list of suggested designated smoking areas for review by the committee. Community members provided their input to the list. They proposed designating smoking areas on the hardscape, but not on the grass or in the gardens.

David Kinney, House of Hospitality Executive Director, reviewed the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership's recommendations for employee designated smoking areas. Several responses included designated smoking areas for the public.

Of the twenty two members' responses, nine were not in favor of designated smoking areas; two of the nine, do not permit smoking on or adjacent to their premises, and direct visitors outside of their leasehold. Twelve members recommended smoking designated areas in close proximity to their institutions. The San Diego Zoo currently has staff and visitor designated smoking areas.

Since smoking is permitted in the House of Hospitality courtyard, concern was voiced that the public have access to enough smoking designated areas other than the courtyard.

Committee members suggested parking lots and adjacent sidewalks as designated smoking areas. They felt that exceptions should be kept to a minimum.

IT WAS MOVED/SECONDED AND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

THAT THE BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE SUPPORTS A SMOKING BAN THROUGHOUT BALBOA PARK, BUT RECOMMENDS THAT SMOKING BE ALLOWED IN ALL OF THE PARKING LOTS AND ON THE SIDEWALKS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE PARKING LOTS. (STEPNER/RUCCI 7-0)

THAT THE BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE SUNKEN GARDEN WHICH IS IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE OLD GLOBE THEATRE, AND THE AREA FROM THE SUNKKEN GARDEN MOVING NORTH AND STOPPING 20 FEET SHORT OF THE GLOBE THEATRE BUILDINGS, GENERALLY KNOWN AS THE COPLEY PLAZA AREA, BE DESIGNATED AS SMOKING AREAS. (GRANOWITZ/STEPNER 7-0)

THAT THE BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE SUPPORTS A PROCESS TO ALLOW FOR SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR PUBLIC SMOKING AREAS IF A PARK TENANT IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE A SMOKING AREA WITHIN A LEASEHOLD OR IS NOT WITHIN A REASONABLE DISTANCE OF A PARKING LOT. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO DESIGNATING A SMOKING AREA AS LONG AS IT IS GENERALLY OUT OF PUBLIC VIEW OR PUBLIC THOROUGHFARES AND AWAY FROM BUILDING ENTRANCES AND WINDOWS. (SINGLETON/STEPNER 7-0)

THAT THE BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT SMOKING BE PERMITTED AT THE BALBOA PARK GOLF COURSE. (RUCCI/STEPNER 7-0)

THAT THE BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE SUPPORTS A PROCESS TO ADDRESS LOCATION OF SMOKING AREAS AT PRIVATE OR SPECIAL EVENT VENUES THAT ARE SITED ON PARK LAWNS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH BALBOA PARK COMMITTEE POLICIES AND THAT THE SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT PROCESS SHOULD INCLUDE THE DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL SMOKING OR NON-SMOKING AREAS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS. (STEPNER/RUCCI 7-0)

Special Events

301. None

WORKSHOP ITEMS

401. None

INFORMATION ITEMS

501. None

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

601. None

COMMMTTEE MEMBER REPORTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Davies adjourned the meeting at 7:48 P.M.

Next Regular Meeting:

Thursday, September 7, 2006
6:00 P.M.

Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Road
San Diego, CA 92101

Respectfully submitted,

Mauro Garcia

